STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I am interested in serving an additional term as the Industry Affiliates Program (IAP) Liaison to the ITRC Board of Advisors. I have been involved in ITRC for over two decades and have been an active, contributing member on several ITRC project teams, including as a trainer. Furthermore, as the current IAP Liaison, I contributed heavily to meeting ITRC's current strategic plan and am well-positioned to provide insights into the future directions of ITRC to not only sustain the organization but place it in a position to grow further into other environmental directions, media, and associations.

As with every enterprise, I understand that the ITRC is driven by funding and that the IAP provides significantly to allow ITRC to continue its mission. I am, however, conscientious that industry contributions to ITRC have resulted in external perceptions of undue influence on a 'State-led' organization. However, the foundations for IAP companies to become and remain involved, and to sustain their contributions, are the environmental topics that ITRC endeavors to form active teams to address. Currently, the IAP primarily consists of a few site/liability holders but with a multitude of environmental and engineering consulting companies and vendors. Furthermore, the current (2021) demographics of the IAP, the site/liability holders are heavily weighted in only a few industries (e.g. the energy and chemicals sectors). These companies have sustained their involvement through the 'traditional' Remediation projects of ITRC. However, projects beyond remediation provide future opportunities to enhance the IAP with new companies and industrial sectors.

As a representative of a company that self-manages a range of environmental issues and liabilities, I have first-hand knowledge to help gauge the relevancy and corporate interest in potential growth topics such as storm water management, wastewater treatment, drinking water resources, waste management, reuse/recycling, air quality/emissions, climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem services, green infrastructure, crisis/disaster planning, etc. Furthermore, I have national and international contacts in industry and in other 'trade' groups and consortia (e.g. API, PERF, SMWG, University Consortium, NICOLE/A, CONCAWE, CL:AIRE, CRC-Care) who are directly dealing with these issues and topics that can be tapped to bring in new potential IAP members. Furthermore, I will work with consulting and vendor companies in the IAP who support multiple clients in a wide variety of industrial sectors...railroads, automotive, pulp and paper, pharmaceuticals, etc.

In addition to these areas of support to the ITRC mission, I would like to see some form of mentoring program be implemented to help train less experienced ITRC members on regulatory issues, negotiations/relation building, technical advocacy, engineering and science, and cooperative development that are uniquely offered by working on ITRC project teams. Related to this, I believe ITRC could become more 'modernized' in the way it maintains its virtual presence (information access, social forums/exchanges), products (dynamic document and training updates), and processes (optimization, operational efficiency, continuous improvement). Most companies have internal modernization efforts that could provide valuable insights and perhaps direct funding (not issue-specific) to ITRC on ways forward to meet the changing demands of all professionals working in the environmental arena.

Dr. David Tsao is the Technology Manager for bp's global Remediation Management group. He is well-published, serves as a senior editor for a peer-reviewed journal, participates as a graduate committee member at U.S. and Canadian universities, and is a recognized expert in nature-based remedial technologies. Throughout his 20+ years in the environmental industry, he has been involved in the cleanup activities at a wide variety of sites administered through State and Federal CERCLA, RCRA, UST, VCP, or Brownfields programs (or equivalent international programs).